

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, Nov. 17, 2015

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Mike Barry, Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Joanne McGee, Leslie Powers, Sue Ross, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Bob Hall, Kate Rossiter (LOA)

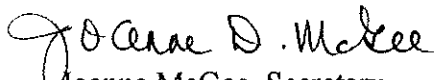
Guest: Sam Richardson, Northfield Trails Association

The meeting opened at 7:50.

1. Access to hiking trails: Sam Richardson presented a memo (attached) to the committee outlining reasons for plowing all parking areas that provide access to hiking trails in the winter for skiers, hikers, snowshoers, and safety people. Joanne suggested that Sam include information about the intersection numbers. *Jerry will revise his earlier letter, incorporating Sam's information, and meet with Tom Walker, Northfield Highway Department.*
2. Minutes: The minutes for Oct. 20, 2015, were approved with several corrections. Julia/Sue 6-0 with one abstention.
3. Member comments: Robin said that John Lepore will be happy to lead a hike. *Jerry will contact John.* Joanne attended the Massachusetts Trails conference with Jerry last Saturday. She noticed an announcement on the bulletin board for a FRCOG meeting about the CT River Scenic Byway for Thursday, Nov. 19. Jerry noted that the Nov. 16 Town Meeting was never finalized. JT Horn emailed that DEP does not like the proposed boundaries for the water company. No further word from JT.
4. 2015 Community Stewardship Award: After discussion about the candidates, all of whom have contributed significant efforts for open space, the committee voted to award the 2015 award to Jenny Tufts. 7-0
5. Community Park update: Robin reported that the Community Park Committee recommends leasing the ball fields on Pierson Road from National Christian Foundation rather than creating new ball fields at the proposed site on Main St. A subcommittee group is preparing the necessary "statement of uniqueness" for the 12-acre Main St site which will mean that an RFP is not needed. Another subcommittee is developing a rough sketch of a park layout that uses the undulations of that 12-acre parcel - there is an ideal site for a natural amphitheater and space for trails. Matthias Nevins, MGLCT, and Beth Giannini, FRCOG, have offered to assist.
6. TGP pipeline update: The Attorney General's report should be delivered tomorrow, Nov. 18. Kinder Morgan will file its official application Nov. 20. KM has sent another round of threatening letters to landowners who refuse to allow surveyors on their properties.

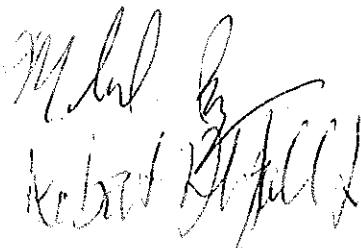
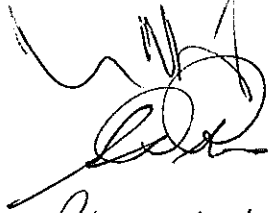
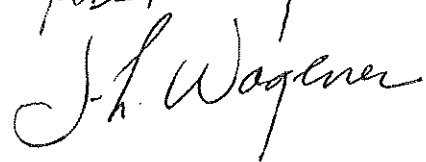
7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,


Joanne McGee, Secretary

Inclusions: Access to hiking trails memo

MGCLT	Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
FRCOG	Franklin Regional Council of Governments
TPL	Trust for Public Land
NMH	Northfield Mount Hermon School
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation
FRCOG	Franklin Regional Council of Governments
DFW	Division of Fisheries and Wildlife



Robin K. Conley

J. L. Wagener